Montana Newsletter

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News

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Vol. 13 No. 4 JULY/AUGUST 1984

COMMISSION ACTS ON LSCA AND CST FUNDS

The State Library Commission approved the recommendations of the Montana Library Services Advisory Council for fiscal year 1985 Library Services and Construction Act grant funds at its June 15 meeting. $77,500 will be available to continue Moncat grants -- support for new Washington Library Network participants and retrospective conversion projects. A demonstration project on the use of school libraries to provide public library services on the Rocky Boy Reservation will be funded with $15,000.

Fund raising workshops for librarians will be funded with $8,500.

The expenditure of 1985 LSCA funds is dependent on Congressional action and approval of the State Library's FY '85 annual program.

Fiscal year 1986 funds in the amount of $25,000 have been earmarked for preparation of a way to address the development of core collections for libraries in isolated areas.

The Commission spent considerable time at the June meeting discussing fiscal year 1985 public library federation plans of service for expenditure of state coal severance tax (CST) funds.

Commission members stressed the importance of local planning and participation in the development of plans of service. Based on Broad Valleys Federation's lead, the Commission recommended that all federations conduct needs assessments of participating libraries this year as a basis for next year's plans of service.

Plans of Tamarack, Pathfinder, and Broad Valleys Federations were approved contingent upon follow-up actions involving definition of services and accountability requirements. Discussion of plans for South Central, Sagebrush and Golden Plains Federations was deferred because of lack of time to review them. They will be considered at the August 25th Commission meeting in Billings.

DRAFT LONG-RANGE PLAN AVAILABLE

The draft Long-Range Plan, 1984-1989, is being distributed during August for review and comment by the library community. The Plan was developed by the Long-Range Planning Committee of the Montana Library Services Advisory Council based on a review of several library planning documents and the solicited comments of Montana librarians and friends of libraries. It presents vision statements on statewide library development over the next five years, culminating in 1989, our centennial year. Several options for each goal are presented. If you do not receive a copy of the Plan in August, you may request one from the State Library.

HUENNEKENS NEW COMMISSION MEMBER

Governor Ted Schwinden has announced the appointment of Herb Huennekens, Billings, and the reappointment of Henry McClernan, Butte, to the State Library Commission.

Huennekens is a former state legislator who served in the House of Representatives from 1973 to 1982. He was chairman of the Judiciary Committee from 1975 to 1976 and chairman of the Taxation Committee from 1977 to 1980. Huennekens succeeds Joan Evans of Billings.

McClernan is currently an associate professor at the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, Bureau of Mines and Geology. He has served as chairman of the State Library Commission since 1982.

LIBRARY AUTOMATION COMMITTEE FORMED

A statewide Library Automation Committee has been appointed by the Montana State Library Commission. The Committee is charged to gather information and advise the Montana State Library Commission and the Montana Library Services Advisory Council on matters concerning library automation, coordinated statewide automation planning, data communications, and telecommunications.

Committee members and the areas they represent are: Shirley Krotz, Director, Glasgow City/County Library, library federations; Sue Nissen, Librarian, Legal Dept., Montana Power Co., special libraries; Amy Palmer, Systems Analyst, Information Services Div., Dept. of Administration, state government; Ruth Patrick, Dean of Libraries, University of Montana, academic libraries; Al Randall, Library-Media Specialist, Libby Senior High School, school libraries; Debbie Schlesinger, Director, Lewis and Clark Library, public libraries.

Serving in advisory roles to the Committee are: Sheila Cates, Library-Media Specialist, Office of Public Instruction; Paul Dunham, Director of Research, Montana University System; Sara Parker, State Librarian, Montana State Library.

Contact Bruce Newell of the State Library if you want further information about the Library Automation Committee. Please complete the insert to this newsletter if you wish to be placed on the mailing list for this Committee.

RURAL BOOK DELIVERY IN FERGUS COUNTY

The Lewistown City Library is cooperating with the Friends of the Library and the Council on Aging in an innovative book delivery program. The Council on Aging bus is used to deliver rotating collections to communities in Fergus County without libraries. Collections of 75 books each are delivered monthly to Clark's Grocery Store in Grass Range, the Roy Post Office, and the Winifred Grocery.

Library Director Florence Kettering reports that the program is very successful and that children's books are in high demand.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS PLANNED

Workshops in financial management are being planned for fall 1984. They are tentatively scheduled at each federation headquarters library. Further information is forthcoming from the State Library. Contact Alene Cooper for more details.

Oct. 19 - Missoula City-Co. Library.
Oct. 22 - Bozeman Public Library.
Oct. 23 - Great Falls Public Library.
Nov. 2 - Parmly Billings Library.
Nov. 3 - Miles City Public Library.
Nov. 5 - Glasgow City-County Library.

GRANT AWARDED TO ACQUIRE VIETNAM FILM SERIES

The Montana Committee for the Humanities has awarded a grant of $9,425 to Montana libraries to purchase the highly acclaimed videotape series **Vietnam: a Television History.** In thirteen one-hour segments, the series chronicles three decades of struggle in Southeast Asia.

Cooperating on the grant are the Montana State Library, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Montana Library Association. The grant also includes acquisition of the copying rights and expenses for public awareness activities.

The series will be housed and distributed by Instructional Materials Service (IMS) of the University of Montana Mansfield Library. It will be available for loan as of September 1984 in both 3/4-inch and 1/2-inch formats.

KUED public television is currently airing the series and will re-broadcast it next January. It can be seen in Montana on cable television. A 16-page study guide is available for television viewers as well as those who borrow the videotapes from the IMS, obtainable at no charge from the State Library, the Office of Public Instruction, and from the public libraries in Montana's 23 cable TV communities. Funding for the printing of the guide was provided in a separate grant to KUED by the Montana Committee for the Humanities.

More information on the **Vietnam** video series can be obtained from Beth Givens, Montana State Library, and Sheila Cates, Office of Public Instruction, Capitol Station, Helena, MT 59620.

For information about possible funding for related study group projects and scholarly research contact the Montana Committee for the Humanities, Box 8036, Hellgate Station, Missoula, MT 59807, 243-6022.

MILL LEVY LEGISLATION UPDATE

The 1983 permissive levy legislation has made a difference for several Montana public libraries, allowing longer hours and expanded book budgets. After many years of serious cutbacks, the potential to increase the tax support for libraries is an important victory, but the gain may be short-lived for some libraries.

The legislation increases the maximum city mill levy from 4.5 to 7 mills and the county levy from 3 to 5 mills. Carriers of House Bill 212 were Sen. Joseph Mazurek and Rep. Jay Fabrega.

Sen. Reed Marbut introduced a related bill which would have allowed the electorate to increase library funding by popular vote if city or county officials were unwilling to levy more funds. Although the bill died in committee, it raised issues for further study of library funding.

Previous to the passage of HB212, sixteen Montana libraries were at the top of the statutory mill limitation. While few recent levy increases reach the top of the limit, the ability to achieve even a half mill more can make the difference between "having a library and having a warehouse," says a librarian whose operation benefited from the legislation.

Debbie Schlesinger reports that the Lewis and Clark Library is now funded close to the maximum of the allowable county mill levy. She says, "It has helped a lot, but it won't last long." She notes that the Library also receives funds from the city, revenue sharing and the motor vehicle tax.

The Great Falls Public Library is funded at the top of both levy limits. According to Director Richard Gercken, "the increase has allowed the Library to restore almost completely its hours of service and to fill vacancies resulting from previous year lay-offs. But given costs of operation and levels of service this community expects, I wish there could be more."

Other libraries which have experienced budget increases over the previous limit include Glasgow City-County Library, Dillon City Library, Philipsburg Public Library, and the Parmly Billings Library.

Whereas the levy increase is a long overdue improvement in the library funding picture, it is not the final answer, especially for libraries serving large populations and those, adds Schlesinger, with a variety of service and outreach programs. The challenge for future planners continues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you an **interested person**? You can complete the insert to this issue of the **News** to be placed on State Library mailing lists for various committees and events.

The **State Library Commission** is planning a one-day working **retreat** prior to its October 25th Anaconda meeting. Commission members will examine the recommendations from the State Library Program Review, the Federation Review and the vision statements of the draft Long Range Plan in order to develop short-term priorities for the Commission and the State Library. If you wish to give your views to the Commission prior to the retreat, write Henry McClernan, Chair, c/o the State Library.

The **North Dakota Library Association Conference** will be held in Williston, September 20 to 22. Bernard Vavrek, of the Center for the Study of Rural Libraries, Clarion University School of Library Science, will give the keynote address on the **Future of Rural Libraries.** A grant writing workshop will be offered for trustees. The NDLA has generously offered member rates to Montanans and Canadians ($18 for the conference) and extends a warm welcome to neighboring librarians and trustees.

The **Montana Arts Council** has completed its move from Missoula to Helena. The new address is: Montana Arts Council, 35 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620, 444-6430.

The **Pacific Northwest Library Association** conference will be held in Billings August 22-24 at the Sheraton Hotel. Highlights are **Richard Boss's** pre-conference workshop, **The Impact of Automation on Library Organization** and **Michael Annison** of the Westrend Group who will speak on trends related to changing social patterns and information technology. For registration information contact Sue Walker, Library, Rocky Mountain College, 1511 Poly Drive, Billings, MT 59102-1796.

If you have announcements, calendar dates, and other news events, **please report** them to Editor, **MSL NEWS.**

1200 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of 20¢ per copy, for a total cost of $240.00, which includes $240.00 for printing and $.00 for distribution.

STATE LIBRARIAN TO SERVE ON FOUNDATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

State Librarian Sara Parker has been appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust Library and Information Resources for the Northwest program.

The grant program, for which the Trust has committed an estimated $3.5 million, is intended to enhance access to information through the development of a technologically sophisticated resource sharing network among libraries in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The Committee will advise Trust staff on directions, strategies, and activities that will contribute to the effective implementation of the program.

It is anticipated that the program will have three major components: a regional assessment of information resources and needs; the creation of interinstitutional plans and agreements for ongoing resource development; and the design of an electronic document delivery capability within the region.

AROUND THE STATE

The move of the **Whitehall** library to new quarters turned out to be a successful public awareness event. Librarian **Margaret Kieckbusch** reports that on May 26th a book brigade of 50 volunteers moved 6,000 volumes to the new building. Although the job was accomplished in 4½ hours, there were times when no books were moving because volunteers became absorbed in reading the books. Kieckbusch noted that several volunteers came back later to check the books out. The new library is financed by $30,000 in donations from the Whitehall community. The address is John Gregory Memorial Library, Box 649, Whitehall, MT 59759, 287-3273.

Bunny Morrison is the new Montana representative for the Mountain Plains Library Association. She is Billings Senior High School Librarian.

The **Manhatten Community Library** 50-year birthday celebration was held June 9th to 15th reports Librarian **Harriet Morgan.**

A Hewlett Packard 150 PC microcomputer is being used by the **Laurel Public Library** to streamline operations according to Director **Peggy Arnold.**

A valuable addition to Glendive's historical record has been written by Dawson County High School Librarian Avis Anderson and co-author Eileen Melby. **Ranchers, Railroaders and Retailers of Glendive; Their Houses and Families 1881-1930** includes over thirty homes and 100 photographs. Request an order form from Anderson, 1112 S. Sargent-2, Glendive, MT 59330.

Glenda Bell, formerly Riverside Junior High School Librarian in Billings, is now Acting Director, Instructional Materials Center, for Billings School District #2.

Library Director **Jean Miller** announced that **Big Horn County Library** begins its own bookmobile service September 1984, serving a population of 11,000. The Library has previously contracted with the South Central Federation for bookmobile service.

Montana State Library News
is published by the
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1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620
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Commissioners' addresses are in the *Montana Library Directory, 1983*

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1984

July

27 Montana Library Services Advisory Council meeting, Helena

August

3 Library Automation Committee meeting, Helena
15 Statewide Collection Development meeting, Helena
16 Western Council of State Libraries workshop, Planning for Delivery of State Government Services
16 to 17 DIALOG Online Searching, half-day training sessions for experienced searchers, Bozeman (call 1-800-227-8282)
22 to 24 Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) Conference, Billings
25 Montana State Library Commission meeting, Billings

September

8 to 15 Banned Books Week
20 to 22 North Dakota Library Association Conference, Ramada Inn, Williston, ND
27 to 28 "Fertilize Your Mind", Midwestern Rural Library Conference, Traverse des Sioux Library System, Mankato, MN

October

5 to 6 Montana Library Association School Library Media Division retreat, Fort Peck
11 Montana Library Services Advisory Council meeting, Helena
19 Financial Management workshop (tentative date), Missoula City-County Library
19 to 20 Montana Library Association School Library Media Division retreat, Bucks T Bar 4, Big Sky
19 to 20 Montana Library Association School Library Media Division retreat, Izaak Walton Inn, Essex
22 Financial Management workshop (tentative date), Bozeman Public Library
23 Financial Management workshop (tentative date), Great Falls Public Library
24 to 25 Chief Officers of State Library Agencies fall meeting, Montpelier, Vermont
25 Montana State Library Commission meeting, Anaconda
31 to Nov. 4 American Association of School Libraries (AASL) conference, Atlanta

November

2 Financial Management workshop (tentative date), Parmly Billings Library
3 Financial Management workshop (tentative date), Miles City Public LIbrary
5 Financial Management workshop (tentative date), Glasgow Public Library

December

7 Montana State Library Commission meeting, Helena

1985

January

5 to 10 ALA Midwinter, Washington DC

May

2 to 4 Montana Library Association meeting, Lewistown

July

6 to 11 ALA Conference, Chicago